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Grand Teton National Park News Release

WINTER SEASON ACTIVITIES BEGIN IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Activities for the 2003–2004 winter season will soon begin in Grand Teton National Park. The Moose, Moran, and Granite Canyon entrance stations and Flagg Ranch Information Station in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway will reopen for winter operations on Wednesday, December 17. Throughout the winter, daily hours of operation for both the Moose Visitor Center and Flagg Ranch Information Station will be from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. These visitor centers will be closed Christmas Day in observance of the holiday.

A **Single Day Pass** is available to winter visitors at Grand Teton's entrance stations. This winter-season permit allows entry into Grand Teton National Park for one day at a cost of \$5 per vehicle. The single day pass is valid **only** in Grand Teton and cannot be used for entry into Yellowstone National Park. Winter visitors may choose to purchase one of the following entry pass options:

\$50 National Parks Pass valid for one year entry to all national park units

\$40 Parks Specific Pass valid for one year entry to Grand Teton and Yellowstone

\$20 Seven-day Pass valid for **snowmobile** entry to both Grand Teton and Yellowstone

\$15 One-day Pass valid for **snowmobile** entry to both Grand Teton and Yellowstone

\$5 Single Day Pass valid only for Grand Teton National Park

Ranger-led snowshoe hikes will begin December 26 at the Moose Visitor Center. This free, 2-hour activity is offered at 2:00 p.m. everyday except Wednesday. Previous experience is not necessary and snowshoes are provided for participants. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 307/739-3399.

Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are popular winter activities in the park. Trails are marked with orange flagging, but are not groomed. The Teton Park Road (TPR) is designated as a winter trail, open to non-motorized use only. The unplowed roadway will be groomed approximately once a week for skate skiing and cross-country touring from Taggart Lake parking area to Signal Mountain after sufficient snow accumulates on the roadbed to accommodate grooming equipment. The TPR winter use trail consists of two 8-foot-wide sections; one section is designated only for diagonal track skiers and skate skiers, and the other section is designated as a multi-use trail for skiers, snowshoers, hikers and leashed dog use.

Skiers and snowshoers, though not restricted to marked trails, are required to observe winter closure areas for protection of wildlife. To obtain trail maps and exact area-closure locations, visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/grte/ppmaps/wintermap or the Moose Visitor Center. Winter closure locations are:

Snake River floodplain from Moran to Menors Ferry near Moose
Buffalo Fork River floodplain within the park
Kelly Hill, Uhl Hill and Wolff Ridge
Willow Flats
Static Peak
Prospectors Mountain
Mount Hunt areas (see the park's cross-country ski brochure for descriptions)

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Leashed pets are allowed on the park's plowed roads and turnouts, the frozen surface of Jackson Lake, the unplowed Moose-Wilson Road, and the Grassy Lake Road. Pets are **not allowed** in the backcountry, which includes all other park areas beyond the defined roadways and Jackson Lake.

The Teton Park Road will again be open to visitors who wish to walk, snowshoe or ski with their leashed pet. Dogs are restricted to the multi-use trail area of the TPR and are required to be **restrained at all times** on a leash, no longer than 6-feet in length, while on the TPR trail or in the parking areas at Taggart Lake and Signal Mountain. *Mutt Mitt* stations are in place at the TPR trailheads to dispense plastic bags for pet waste; trash receptacles are also available for disposal of used bags. Pet owners **are required** to clean up their pet's waste and properly dispose of the bags in the receptacles provided. If pet owners do not comply with these rules and regulations, it is possible that pets will be prohibited from the TPR in the future.

Dog sleds are not allowed on the Teton Park Road, however, they are allowed on the Grassy Lake Road in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway.

Backcountry users and mountaineers planning to stay overnight in the backcountry must get a non-fee permit at the Moose Visitor Center before their trip. Permits are not required for day users. To obtain weather forecasts and avalanche hazard information, stop at the Moose Visitor Center, visit the backcountry website www.jhavalanche.org, or phone the avalanche hotline at 307/733-2664.

Winter car camping is available only in the parking area at Colter Bay Visitor Center from December 1 through April 15. A \$5 nightly fee is charged and payable at a self-registration box located near the restrooms adjacent to the visitor center.

Snowmobilers may use the Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail (CDST) which runs through the park and parkway, and Grassy Lake Road in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, when conditions permit. Snowmobile operation hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The CDST will not open until enough snow has accumulated to allow grooming and safe passage along the trail route; in addition, it opens in coordination with the State of Wyoming's portion of the CDST which provides access into the park from the east boundary, through the Moran Entrance Station. Trail information is available through a recorded message by calling 307/739-3614.

To reduce environmental impacts, snowmobilers are encouraged to use improved snowmobile technology such as 4-stroke engines, biodegradable motor oil, and approved auxiliary tanks for transporting gasoline.

Please Note: Check for updates on snowmobile regulations at the Moose Visitor Center or on the park's website at www.nps.gov/grte before operating a snowmobile in the park or parkway, as details of winter use in Yellowstone, Grand Teton, and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway are the subject of pending legal actions.

For further information about any winter activity in Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, please call 307/739-3300.

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